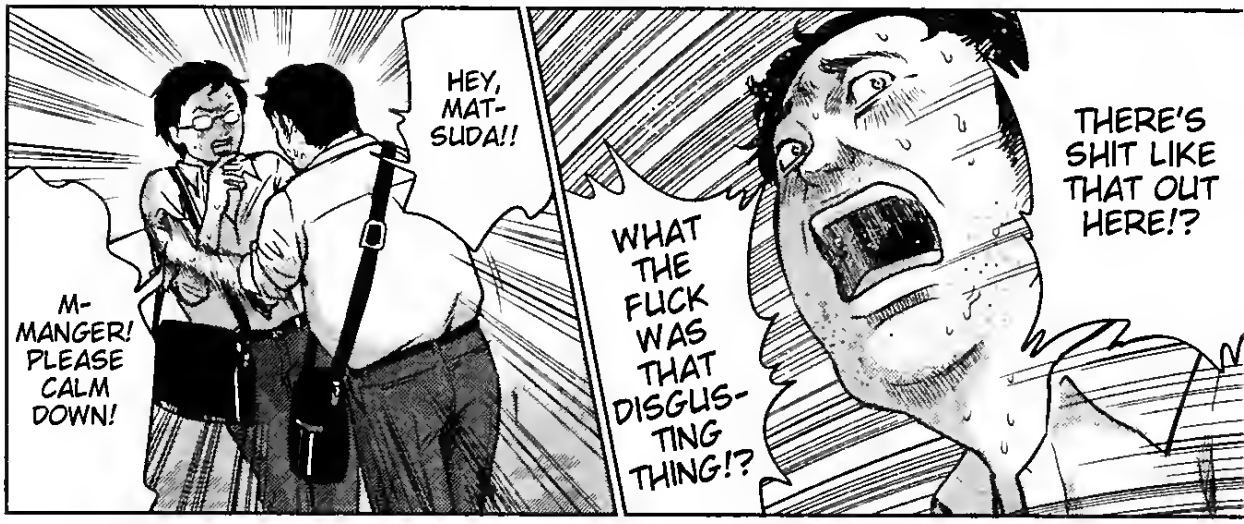
WHAT...
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
ALL I DID WAS STOP BY A NET CAFE ON MY WAY HOME FROM WORK...
ALL I DID...
WAS TO GET REUNITED WITH MY FIRST LOVE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...

WHY DO I HAVE TO GET STUCK HERE...
WITH THESE STRANG-ERS...
IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME GOD-FORSAKEN HOT-AS-HELL WETLAND?
[第9話]土岐のトラウマ
CHAPTER 9: TOKI'S TRAUMA

HA
ARE YOU OKAY!?
DOES IT HURT!?
HAA
HA
HAA
HAA
...
WHAT WAS THAT?
URRH... HUUH...!!
YES, IT HURTS!! MY LEG'S BURNING!!

ちゃぽ。
ちゃぽ。
.....

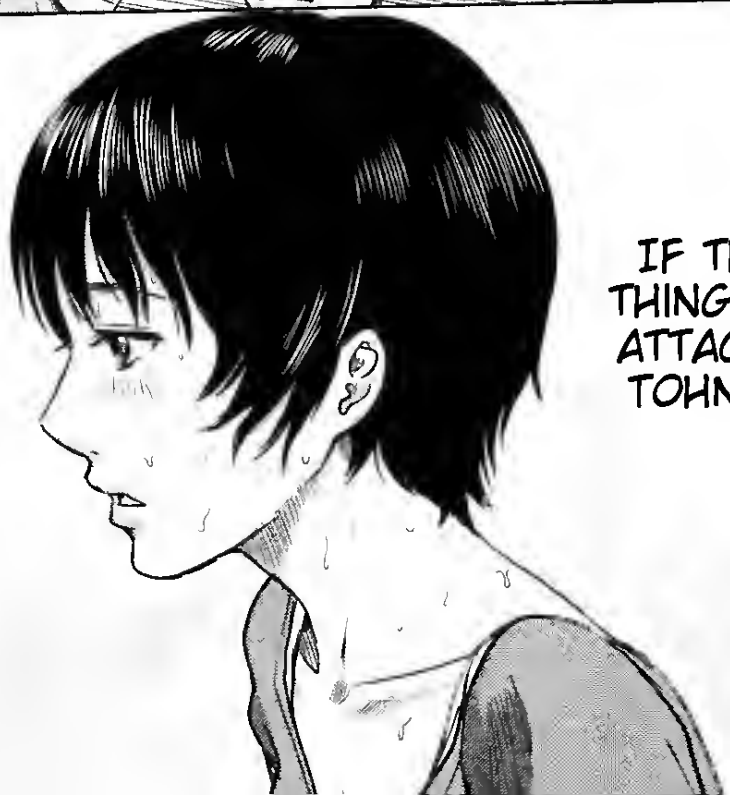

HEY, MAT-SUDA!!
M-MANGER! PLEASE CALM DOWN!
WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT DISGUS-TING THING!?
THERE'S SHIT LIKE THAT OUT HERE!?

AND NOW IT'S ESCAPED...!
HAA
HAA
HAA
MAYBE ...
SOME MANIAC GOT AHOLD OF SOME RARE CREATURE AND RAISED IT!?

DON'T GO SPOUTING SOME BULLSHIT, MATE!
HAH!

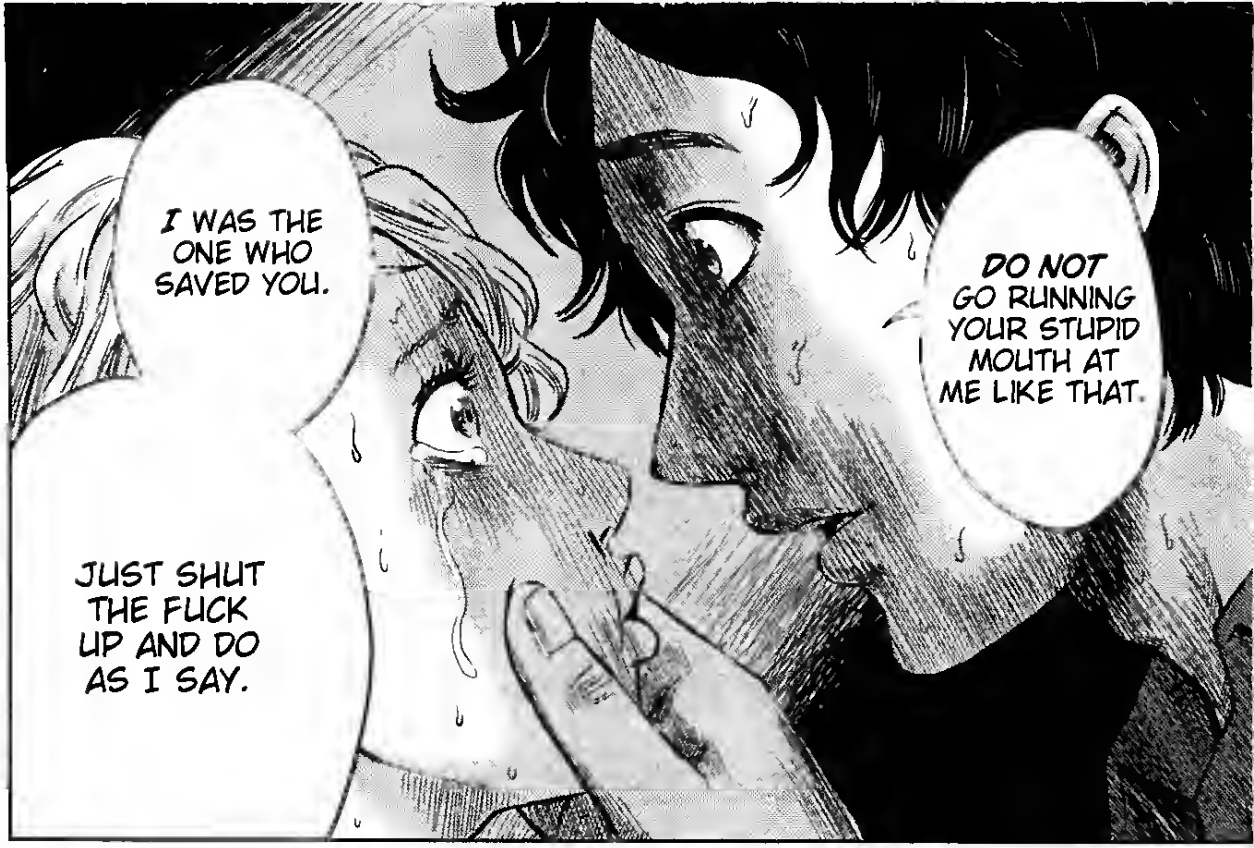
HAA
HAA
I COULDN'T EVEN MOVE AN INCH!
MY... BODY JUST FROZE...
HAA
HAA
HAA
HEY, DON'T CRY!
HAA
HAA

TOKI!! YOU GOT ONE, RIGHT!?
SOMEONE GIVE ME A LIGHTER!!


I... WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO A THING!
IF THAT THING HAD ATTACKED TOHNO...

HOW CAN I EVEN THINK ABOUT PROTECT-ING HER?
I'M COMPLETELY HOPELESS!
IN THE END, THE GUY WHO ACTED...
WAS HIM...
TERA-SAWA...
HEY!!
THIS AIN'T NO PLACE TO BE STAND-ING AROUND !!!

GOING ANY FURTHER IS TOO DANGEROUS!!
WE DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE OUT THERE!
THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING WORSE LURKING AROUND!
W-... WHAT!?
WE'RE GOING BACK!?
WE'RE HEADING BACK!!
BACK TO THAT PLACE!!
NO...! NO!! I WANNA GO HOME!!
BACK THERE, WHERE I CAN'T EVEN TAKE A SHOWER, LET ALONE USE A TOILET!?
MY LEG HURTS! I CAN'T WALK!!


I WAS THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU.
DO NOT GO RUNNING YOUR STUPID MOUTH AT ME LIKE THAT.
JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP AND DO AS I SAY.

IF YOU CAN'T WALK, GET SOME-ONE TO CARRY YOU!
WE'RE LEAV-ING!!
.....

COME ON. HOP ON MY BACK.
GEEZ, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT GUY?
O-... OH WELL...
.....

JUST GONNA GO BACK LIKE THAT?
HAA
HAA
A-... ARE WE REALLY...
TOGETH-ER WITH THESE PEOPLE!?
JUST HOW LONG AM I SUPPOSED TO STAY THERE!?
HAA
HAA
HAA
WE HAVEN'T EVEN FIGURED OUT A SINGLE THING!
TOKI...
SAY IT.

AH...
卒業 おめでとう
HAPPY GRADUATION!
月 日( )
ようなら
SEE YOU!
YEAH! I'LL CATCH YOU AGAIN AT SCHOOL!
ピッ
ピッ
ピッ
しゅぽんっ
しゅぽんっ

AH...
TOKI...
HEAD-
ING
HOME?
...
YEAH
...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE SPOKE.
NOT REAL-LY...
YOU'RE ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY FROM ME...
THIS IS THE LAST TIME, ISN'T IT?
THAT WE'LL SPEAK TO EACH OTHER.
H-...
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW.

TOKI!
BYE...
SAY IT.
S-...
SAY WHAT?
.....

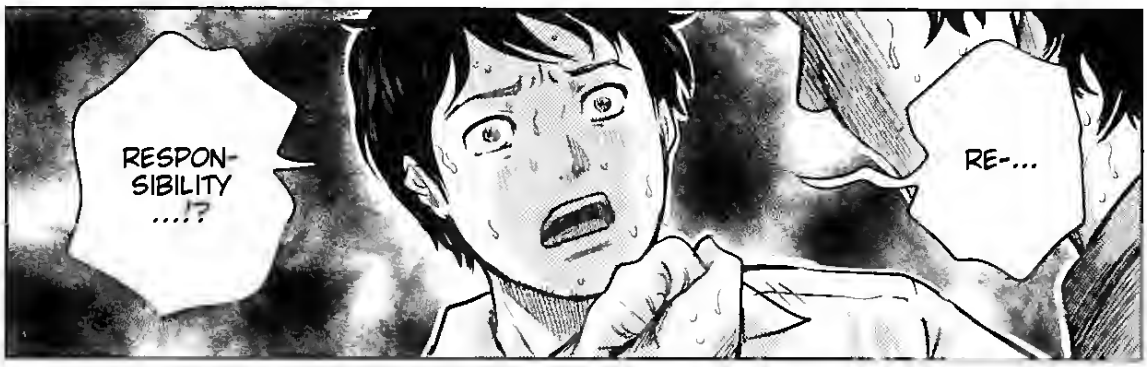
EVER SINCE THAT TIME...
THAT'S RIGHT... OF COURSE!

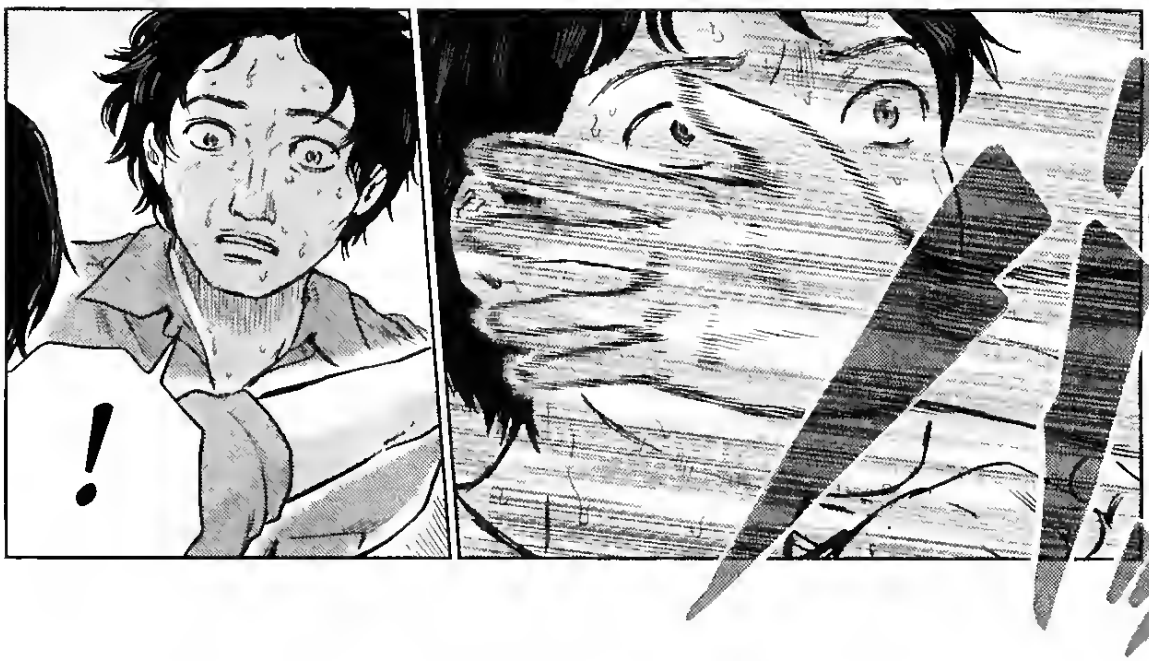
WITHOUT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, WITHOUT PAVING MY OWN WAY...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SUPPRESSING MY FEELINGS...
JUST PUTTING UP AN APPEARANCE, JUST GOING WITH THE FLOW...
H-...

HOLD ON!!
WHAT!?

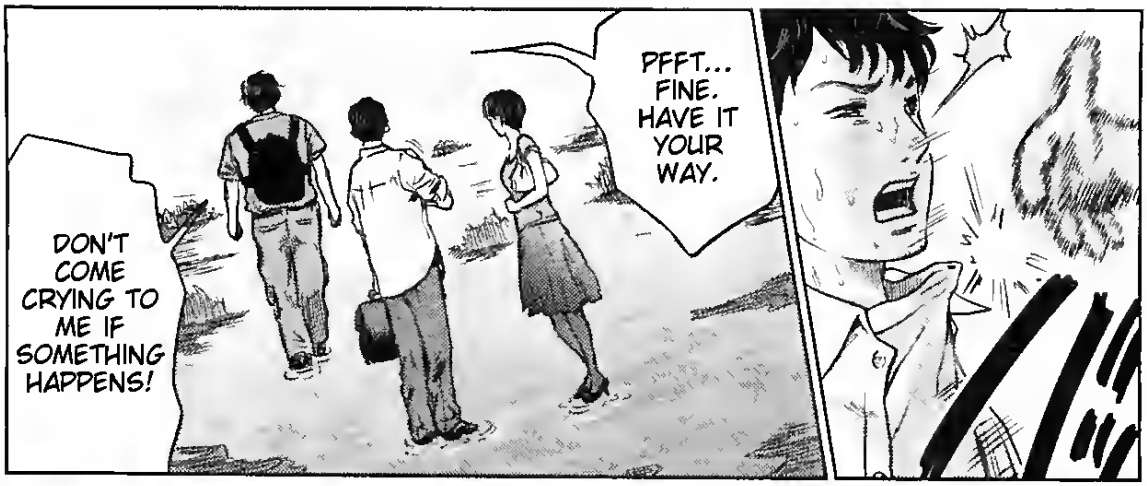
IF WE HEAD BACK NOW...
ALL WE'D BE ABLE TO DO IS SIT AROUND AND WAIT!!
NOT A THING!!
WE STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!
AT LEAST... UNTIL WE FIND OUT SOMETHING!
WE SHOULD GO ON!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

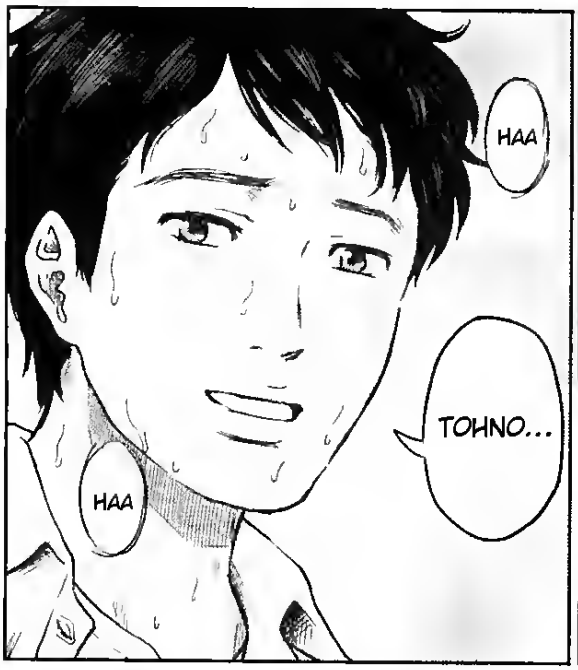
DON'T GO ACTING LIKE A TOUGH GUY! CAN YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IF SOMETHING HAPPENS!?
YOU WERE JUST STANDING THERE SHELL-SHOCKED A MINUTE AGO!


RESPON-SIBILITY ....!?
RE-...

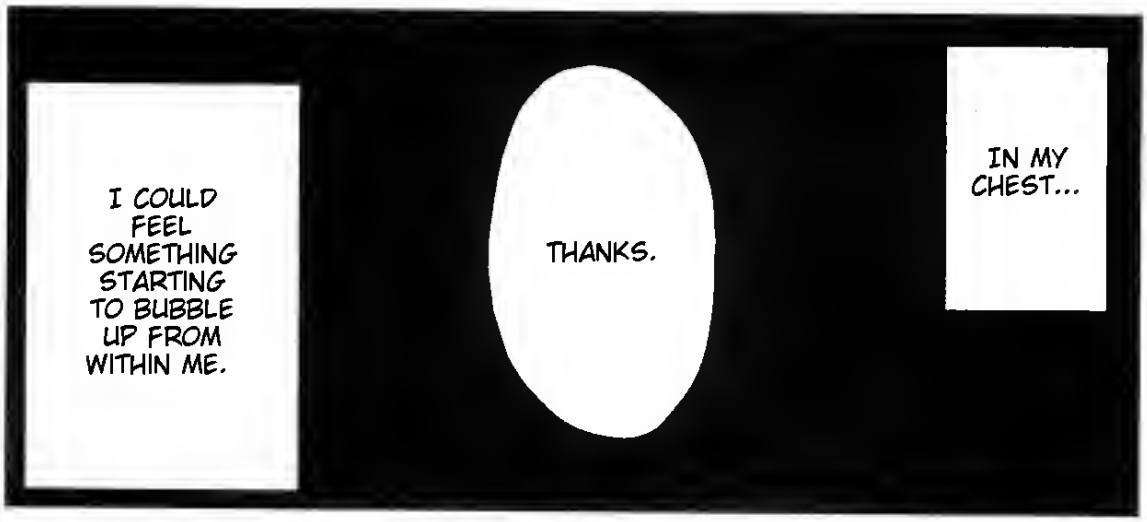

!

I THINK WE SHOULD GO ON TOO!
IF WE GO BACK, WHAT'S THE POINT OF COMING OUT ALL THE WAY HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!?
DON'T GO DECIDING FOR THE GROUP BY YOURSELF!!
I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FAMILY!!
Y-... YEAH!


DON'T COME CRYING TO ME IF SOMETHING HAPPENS!
PFFT... FINE. HAVE IT YOUR WAY.


HAA
TOHNO...
HAA

HAA
HAA
HAA


I COULD FEEL SOMETHING STARTING TO BUBBLE UP FROM WITHIN ME.
THANKS.
IN MY CHEST...